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2-18-2021

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University of San Diego, "Vista: February 18, 2021" (2021). *USD Vista*. 1105.
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VOL. 58 ISSUE 14

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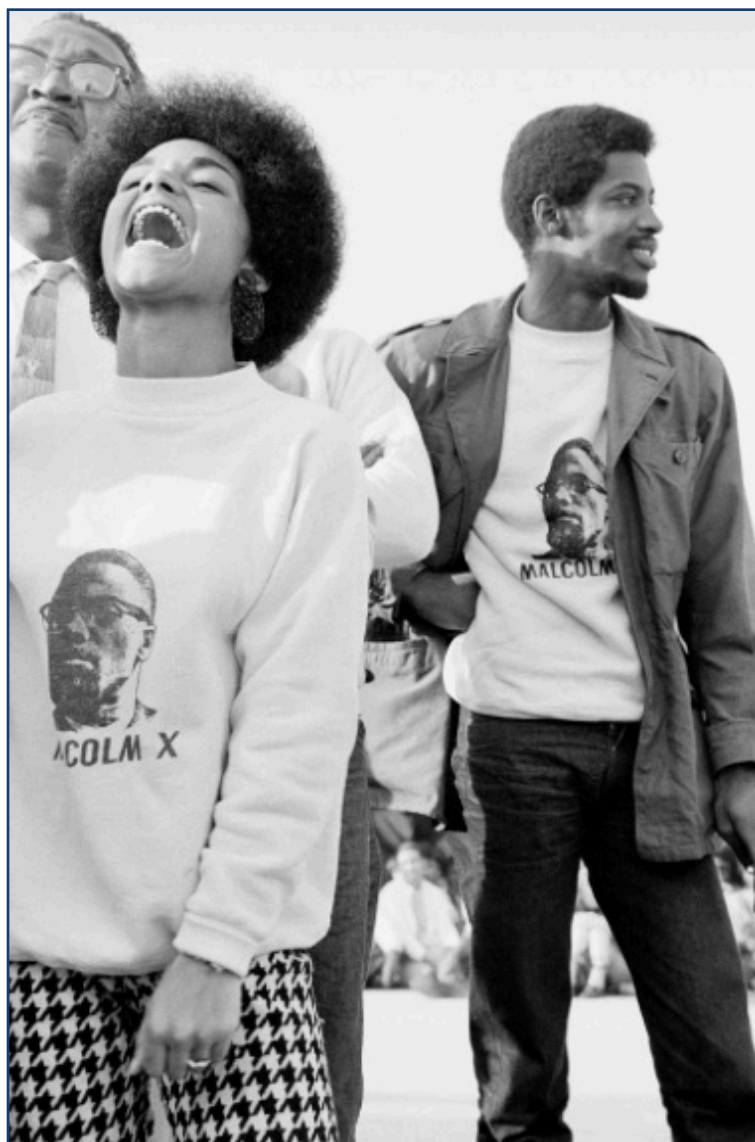
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USD issues stay-on-campus order

President Harris tells students to not leave campus for any non-essential reasons following a COVID-19 surge

TYLER PUGMIRE
NEWS EDITOR

Following a rise in COVID-19 cases, USD's administration has decided to declare their version of a stay-at-home order for students living on campus. Students are no longer permitted to leave campus for any non-essential reason, such as dining, social, or entertainment purposes.

Any of the labs or other specialty classes that were taking place on campus will now be converted to remote learning until further notice. Furthermore, any organizations that were

previously meeting on campus must now revert to a remote format as well.

There has been a 250% increase of cases since the end of the fall semester, and now one in every ten on-campus students

on the posted link for an "important message from USD." Waiting on the next page was a video from President James T. Harris III, D.Ed., detailing that because of this spike in cases, USD is tightening

County.

Bella Syslo is a first year student living in the San Buenaventura apartments on campus and felt torn after receiving the text.

"I totally sympathize with the administration

"I think since campus life is limited in a lot of ways right now, lots of students are looking at the beach or socially distanced dining options as a way to adapt to these times and still be able to live a semi-normal life, so I'm not sure that asking kids to stay on campus is a realistic option."

-Bella Syslo

have contracted the virus. A mass text was sent to all students on Feb. 12 directing students to click

restrictions on gatherings on campus, which were already more stringent than those of San Diego

trying to figure out what is best to keep cases down but I also think it's equally hard for students right now too especially when they are being told not to leave campus," Syslo said. "I think since campus life is limited in a lot of ways right now, lots of students are looking at the beach or socially distanced dining options as a way to adapt to these times and still be able to live a semi-normal life, so I'm not sure that asking kids to stay on campus is a realistic option."

In the video, Harris



A face covering is required to enter the University of San Diego's campus this spring, along other measures.

Tanner Claudio/The USD Vista

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Harris noted that cases are on the rise due to gatherings outside of current protocols. “This is not the time for attending parties, socializing in groups, or adopting a casual approach to our health and safety protocols,” Harris said.

USD has begun talks to house COVID-19-infected students in a hotel in Old Town, and are now quarantining students in the Presidio Terrace Apartments on Linda Vista Road.

“Our numbers in the past few weeks have grown to levels that if they continue on this trajectory, will require us to make some tough

sent home as they were in March of 2020 when the pandemic began.

USD is now requiring all students to make and attend appointments for

according to an email sent by Residential Life. USD has also now required all students who come on to campus to also go through testing and book

“Our numbers in the past few weeks have grown to levels that if they continue on this trajectory, will require us to make some tough decisions about the future of the spring semester.”

-James T. Harris III

decisions about the future of the spring semester,” Harris said, indicating that students might be

COVID-19 testing, and if they don’t, on-campus students can potentially be locked out of their rooms,

appointments through the Rady Children’s Hospital testing that is provided by the school.



The University of San Diego has issued a stay-on-campus order for all students living on campus, due to a surge in COVID-19 cases on and off campus.

Tanner Claudio/The USD Vista

Trump acquitted after violent insurrection prompts impeachment

The Senate voted 57-43 to convict the former president, 10 short of the two-thirds threshold

MIKAELA FOEHR
COPY EDITOR

In the entirety of American history, there have been four impeachment trials, three of which have occurred during many student's lifetimes, and two of those three in the last two years. The impeachment of President Donald

Trump during the final days of his term marks history as the first time a sitting president has been impeached twice, and the first time a president who has already left office endured an impeachment trial.

The charges brought against Trump by the Democrat-led House of Representatives

were for "(engaging) in high Crimes and Misdemeanors by inciting violence against the Government of the United States." The impeachment trial was conducted on the Senate floor, hearing cases for and against why Trump should be formally removed from office from the prosecution and defense teams respectively.

Impeachment trials have a ripple effect across the country, and here on campus that effect can be observed heavily in the political science and international relations department. During the past two impeachment trials, professors teaching American politics courses

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Donald Trump was acquitted by the U.S. Senate following an impeachment from the U.S. House of Representatives after a violent mob at the U.S. Capitol.

Photo courtesy of flickr/Tyler Merbler

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have scrambled to rewrite syllabi and lesson plans to highlight this rare occurrence of the Constitution in action.

Evan Crawford, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, found Trump's second impeachment especially necessary to incorporate because of the unique nature of the situation, with the president in question already out of office.

"These are rare events and also incredibly important," Crawford said. "I spent time with my intro students on questions pertaining to the constitutionality question that was part of Trump's defense. This of course, was after spending the first of the semester talking at length about the events of Jan. 6."

As a political science major, Cailyn Thompson, senior, saw the impeachment trial as an intersection between lectures and real life.

"We get to explore more of the differences in how the Constitution can be read and interpreted, and how the powers of it can be used in everyday life," Thompson said.

She also saw the proceedings as a small beacon of hope in a politically divided nation.



The events of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol prompted an impeachment of Donald Trump.

Photo courtesy of flickr/Tyler Merbler

"Considering this was one of the more bipartisan impeachments, it maybe shows us that we aren't completely divided and the world doesn't have to be seen in black or white," Thompson said.

The prosecution team, made up of Democratic Representatives from the House, centered its case on proving that Trump was aware of the effect of his words on the crowd at his Jan. 6 "Stop the Steal rally. They brought forth an extensive amount of evidence that ranged from quotes from Trump's speech that day, to statements from detained members of the mob, to analysis of Trump's response to the insurrectionists. Additionally, the prosecution relied heavily on video evidence from the violent insurrection,

provoking an emotional response from some congresspeople as they were all witnesses to the deadly events of Jan. 6, which resulted in the deaths of five people, including one Capitol police officer.

On the contrary, the defense focused their efforts on undermining the legitimacy of the impeachment charges and trial by framing it as the final step in a campaign of partisan attacks against Trump. In terms of specific allegations that Trump incited violence, namely through the Stop the Steal rally, his defense team claimed that phrases such as "fight like hell" are common political rhetoric and have been used many times by politicians on both sides of the aisle.

Despite the partisan framing by the defense, the

fact that ten Republican representatives voted for the impeachment charges, makes this the most bipartisan impeachment in history.

The impeachment trial was conducted in less than a week, with the final vote held on Feb. 13. Trump was acquitted of the impeachment charges with a 57-43 vote to convict, meaning that seven Republican senators voted against the former president of their own party. A two-thirds majority, ten additional votes, would have been needed to convict Trump of the charges.

With the impeachment trial finished, the Democratic-controlled Congress will now be able to turn its attention to working with President Joe Biden to navigate his agenda.

Invisible leaders: Ella Baker

As an American human rights activist, she aided the fight for equality by focusing on the details

DOMINIC URQUIDEZ
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

The legendary life of Ella Jo Baker began on Dec. 13, 1903, in Norfolk, Virginia. Throughout her activism, she played a central role in many well-known organizations dedicated to racial justice, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Baker's commitment toward social justice started at a young age when her grandmother would tell her stories of what it was like living under slavery. One harrowing experience her

by her grandmother's ability to live through such trauma. The anecdotes from her grandmother motivated Baker to join in the fight for racial justice.

Intelligent and dedicated, Baker studied at Shaw University where she graduated as valedictorian. She then moved to New York to join several social activist organizations, including the Young Negroes Cooperative League (YNCL). The YNCL focused on developing Black economic power. Baker also took part in multiple women's organizations.

Baker joined the NAACP in 1940, working as the field secretary and then later the director of various branches. To combat the Jim Crow



Baker was instrumental to the creation of many civil rights organizations but was often overlooked and clashed with male leaders.

Photo courtesy of U.S. National Archives

“The major job was getting people to understand that they had something within their power that they could use, and it could only be used if they understood what was happening and how group action could counter violence...”

grandmother relayed was when she was whipped as a result of not marrying the man her slave owner chose for her. Baker was inspired

laws in the South, she co-founded the organization In Friendship in 1955. The group aimed to assist grassroots activists who

were struggling in their fight against segregation.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies and Affiliate

believed that there should not be a top-down form of authority, but rather a coalition that allowed people to be in charge of their own destiny.

“She was a radical democratic leader,” Calloway said. “And what I mean by radical democratic leader is she was completely against any sort of movement or resistance that centered around one messianic figure ... she was against that one figure, that one

Faculty in Africana Studies at USD, Jamall Calloway, discussed Baker's ability to organize various programs. Baker

Moses, who symbolized

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- Ella Baker

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the resistance.”

In 1957, she worked alongside Martin Luther King to help organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. However it was not all easy for Baker, she clashed with many male leaders, including King. Baker was a strong-willed woman who pushed back against the idea of male dominance in social activism. She quit the organization in 1960.

Baker's gender, race, and age all played a role in the challenges she faced in her activism. She was older than King, and often seen as the god-mother of SNCC. Her position of maintaining and keeping an organization afloat was often overlooked by male

figures. Whereas Baker focused on the details of the establishment, the priorities of her male counterparts were centered around the spokesperson.

“She clashed with a lot of the men who had issues with seeing women as equally authoritative figures,” Calloway said. “From her position, it was ludicrous because both the civil rights movement and the African-American Church, the membership were primarily Black Women.”

SNCC was developed in 1960 after Baker set up a meeting at Shaw University to assist Black student activists who were denied service at a lunch counter in North Carolina.

Due to her dedication and organizational skills, SNCC became one of the most well-known human rights advocacy organizations in the country.

Baker believed that young student leaders were an instrumental resource to the movement toward racial justice. SNCC, along with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), adopted the Gandhian view of direct action through non-violence. The organization helped form the Freedom Rides of 1961 and Freedom Summer, an attempt to register Black voters and to highlight Mississippi's racism.

Toward the end of her life, Baker continued to

fight for racial justice. She died on Dec. 13, 1986, in New York at age 83. Her contributions toward civil rights through the creation of multiple organizations should be celebrated and honored. She was purposeful, coordinated, and bold. Her name, along with the names of those who are undervalued, deserves to be recognized and celebrated during Black History Month and beyond.

“I want (students) to understand Black history month as a living thing,” Calloway said. “It's not exclusively a collection of relics, it's not just a collection of past heroes ... Sometimes Black History Month can be like a ‘who's who’ of the past and we celebrate them without necessarily recognizing the social conditions under which they had to do whatever it is that they did.”

To value Black History Month is to recognize the many activists whose names are often overlooked and undervalued. They are the church leaders, the school teachers, and the students. February is a month to honor Black leaders who have helped this country become more equal, but it is also a time to remember that there is much more work to be done.



Baker's gender and age created challenges in her activism, but that did not stop her from joining the fight for racial justice.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Library of Congress

The Beauty of an Ugly History

Gordon Parks, self-taught photographer, writer, and musician, was the first Black photographer to work for Life and Vogue magazine and is considered one of the greatest photographers of the 20th century. He became prominent in U.S. documentary photojournalism in the 1940s through the 1970s. Much of Parks' work was centered around highlighting civil rights and poverty issues that plagued African American communities. As a humanitarian with a deep commitment to social justice, his aim was to showcase that despite the terror and anguish that persisted throughout these decades for the Black community, beauty could nonetheless be found in the ugliest parts of human history.

Parks is remembered as an artist whose weapon was his camera and whose objective was visual poetry. He is known for stating slightly different versions of this stirring phrase over and over again:

“You can have a 45mm automatic pistol on your lap, and I have a 35mm camera on my lap, and my weapon is just as powerful as yours.”

Untitled, Watts, California, 1967

With this statement, he was simultaneously conveying his choice to document the events of the time rather than reaching for violence, and that in another sense his camera was his best choice of weapon in the fight against what he hated most about society — poverty, discrimination, and oppression.

One aspect of photography that Parks focused on was capturing images of hands to emphasize the theme of togetherness and the triumph of the human spirit.

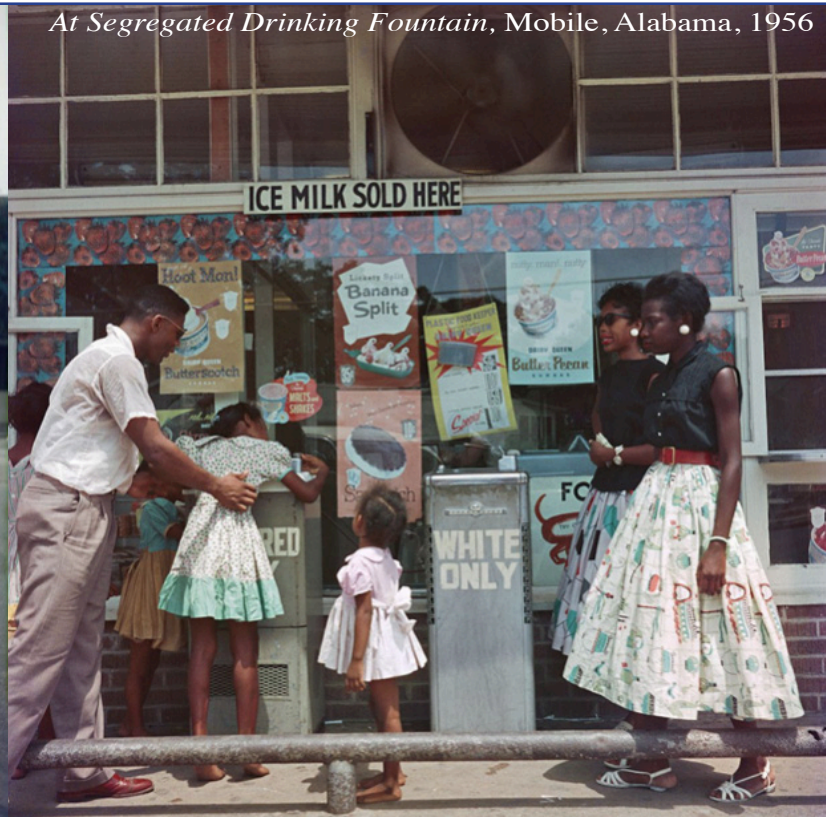
Park had a desire to document everyday life in Black communities across the country in order to highlight that there were still essences of normality and quietness in an increasingly tumultuous and unjust period of history.

His goal was to find the beauty that still existed even when it felt like there was none left. Looking at his photographs today, no matter the circumstances that surrounded the objects at the end of his lens, there is evidently always beauty to behold.

All photos courtesy of *The Gordon Parks Foundation* and *Jack Shainman Gallery*, New York



Department Store, Mobile, Alabama, 1956



At Segregated Drinking Fountain, Mobile, Alabama, 1956



Untitled, Alabama, 1956

The Bachelorettes and Bachelors of USD

Meet some of USD's finest and brightest single ladies and gentlemen

TAYLOR DEGUZMAN
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Although Valentine's Day is over, love is still lingering amongst many hopeless romantics and several eager-for-love, drama-obsessed "Bachelor" fans. Season 25 of ABC Television's "The Bachelor" is at the center of many college students' Monday nights. The youngest contestant is 21, so if they are ready for love, then sure enough, the bachelorettes and bachelors of USD are as ready as ever to find their special someone. For now, ditch the dating apps, the Instagram DMs, and the Zoom private messages, and see if you can find "the one" in this story.

**Meet the
bachelorettes...**

Maddie Nye, 20
Orange County, CA



Photo courtesy of Maddie Nye.

Maddie is an outgoing adventure seeker who showers the people she loves with yummy baked goods. The ideal person for Maddie is someone who is willing to step outside of their comfort zone and either join her on top of a table to dance in front of a crowd, or cheer her on: there's no in-between. On the flipside, Maddie can't see herself with someone who is closed-minded or is too prideful to admit when they've made a mistake. The perfect date with Maddie is nothing too fancy or formal: it would start off with a quick and casual dinner, then a concert with lots of dancing and good vibes, and then finally end with some delicious ice cream.

Monica Daschel, 21
Portland, Oregon



Photo courtesy of Monica Daschel.

Monica is unapologetically herself and truly the life of the party; she's the one you

call when you're in need of an energy boost, or you're having a bad day. Passionate about more representation for women in STEM, Monica hopes to make an impact on students as a middle school science teacher in the future. She is looking for someone who she can be herself around, a best friend to spend life with, and the person who will carry her home when her feet begin to hurt. Her dream date would have to be at Disneyland (post-pandemic) or a sunset picnic with Taco Bell.

Alex Retodo, 21
Sacramento, CA



Photo courtesy of Alex Retodo.

Alex describes herself as a little stubborn at times, but fiercely loyal to the people she cares about and the values that are the most important to her. When Alex isn't working toward her dream of being a pediatrician, she is living the dream in Mission Beach working

as a part-time barista. The special someone for Alex is a man who is kind, respectful, and will accept her for all that she is. She would love someone to talk all day with, someone who works hard, and someone who is spiritual and faith-centered. The perfect day with Alex would be waking up super early to go on a hike and watch the sunrise, then drinking yummy coffee and breakfast, and then a picnic in the park, basking in the sun.

Phia Leonard, 20
Carmel, Indiana



Photo courtesy of Phia Leonard.

An aspiring traveling marine biologist and founder of a rescue-rehabilitate-release center, Phia has a big heart that shines through her passions. Phia is bold and isn't afraid of being herself; she's the one in the room who is always laughing. She is looking for someone

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to make her laugh, never fail to make her day, and someone who she can be her most authentic self around.

Meet the Bachelors...**Owen Hess, 21****Seattle, Washington**

Photo courtesy of Owen Hess.

Owen is full of life, charming, and always the one cracking jokes and making people laugh. He's the kind of guy who loves being active, however, he is perfectly fine staying in all day, watching movies, and ordering Grubhub. Owen hopes to join the Airforce in the future, and then hopefully work for a company like SpaceX or NASA. The perfect person for Owen is someone who is fun and daring, someone who he can spend hours talking to and never run out of things to say, and especially someone who has the same music taste as him. If Owen could plan the perfect date, it would be a boat ride on Lake Washington in Seattle, lunch at Ivar's (a restaurant on the lake), eating the

best fish and chips in the world, and then the rest of the day would consist of swimming, listening to good music, and drinking mimosas.

Jon Woodward, 22**Evergreen, Colorado**

Photo courtesy of Jon Woodward.

Jon is as adventurous, free-spirited, and in love with life as it gets. He describes himself as a God-following, world-traveling, others-based "Boomer" trapped in a young body with a forever childish heart. His dream typical day would be waking up early, skinning up a mountain with his skis or surfing the ocean, sharing breakfast with family and friends, heading off to work and making a difference in other people's lives, and then finishing the day off with a home-cooked meal and drinks with friends. Jon sees himself starting his own biotechnology research clinic in the future. In a future girlfriend, he hopes that whoever she is, she lights a fire in his soul and he can

light one in hers.

Donovan (Donny)**Alcones, 20****San Diego, California**

Photo courtesy of Donovan Alcones.

Donny was born and raised in San Diego. He describes himself as a giving person, especially when it comes to the friends and family in his life. Donny has dreams of composing music for either the video game or animation industry. While on the surface, Donny shows others his intellect and his drive, he says when you get to really know him he ends up being more humorous and a little unhinged: all great things. Donny is looking for a man who's able to say what's on his mind and someone who is well-versed and passionate about something. The perfect date with Donny would be tacos at 664 TJ Birreria, a beautiful walk around Seaport Village while eating ice cream, and then a walk around the Sheraton Hotel, pretending to be fancy

guests.

Adam Mcleod, 21**Redlands, CA**

Photo courtesy of Adam Mcleod.

Adam is goofy, kind, and easy-going. He describes himself as the kind of guy who goes with the flow, always eager to have a good time with the people he loves. In the future, Adam hopes to do something in either real estate or fashion. A typical day in Adam's life starts with a 5 a.m. three-mile run, then after, some Bible reading, a shower, nap, classes, and then homework; if he has time, he'll research his favorite philosopher and then spend the rest of his day spending time with best friends. The qualities he looks for in a girlfriend are a good sense of humor, loyalty, charisma, and mindfulness. If Adam could plan the perfect date, it would consist of an "outstanding" meal at Denny's or BJ's, laughing with his girl, and driving to the beach to enjoy a nice sunset walk.

The culture of New Year's resolutions

February check-in with USD students' New Year's resolutions

ANNA VALAIK
ASST. A&C EDITOR

For many people, all focus turns to New Year's once Christmas and other holiday festivities pass. People everywhere bid farewell to the year ending and celebrate a brand new 365 days on the horizon. It's a time to reminisce on the past while dreaming about and planning for the future. Many would agree this past New Year's celebration was unlike any they have experienced before. 2020 presented the world with a global pandemic, and these incredible challenges left a lasting impact. For some, 2020 was spent with family and loved ones; it gave people an opportunity to focus on their mental health, discover a new hobby, or simply take a break from a busy schedule. For others, 2020 meant losing loved ones, wondering when the next paycheck would come in, or dealing with difficult home lives.

In a year of chaos and too many unanswered questions, many gladly left 2020 behind. USD students shared their outlook on 2021, and

whether they believed in New Year's resolutions.

AJ Dinsmore, a senior and soon-to-be graduate, set a specific intention for 2021, even though she is not a huge fan of New Year's resolutions.

"I made an intention to take 15 minutes to myself every day and listen to a motivational podcast while I walk on the bay," Dinsmore said. "I've learned to love this time and I actually look forward to it. I'm also running a lot more, and with the help of my new running shoes, it's been going great."

Dinsmore felt her resolutions were not affected by the pandemic because she had time to make realistic goals.

"I can't exactly make a resolution to travel more and meet new people, but I can continue to prioritize my mental and physical health during this time," Dinsmore said.

Like many, Dinsmore believed 2021 was meant for looking inward in order to continue bettering herself. She realized it was important to be realistic with her resolutions considering the circumstances she is living in. By setting

manageable intentions, she put less pressure on herself, and there was less room for disappointment.

Paulina Oles, a junior, shared a similar desire to take the pressure away from ringing in the New Year. She put her own special twist on New Year's resolutions a few years ago. Instead of doing New Year's resolutions, she makes birthday resolutions every year. By shifting the focus to her birthday, she centers goals around her specific age. So, for her 21st year on Earth, which she celebrated this past October, she set a few intentions.

"Some of the resolutions I set for being 21 were to prioritize my happiness, give back to my community on the 21st of every month, and be more intentional with where I am placing my energy," Oles said.

Oles was happy to report she's been keeping up with her goals, even though the pandemic has altered the way in which she prioritizes herself and her health.

"One of the ways I find happiness is through hot yoga, and since many yoga studios are not open

or have a limited number of customers, it can be difficult to find a way to practice yoga in the heat," Oles said. "I think it's important to still find ways to make yourself happy and prioritize mental health, especially with the pandemic."

Oles' positive attitude keeps her going, which she has found especially important during such stressful and negative times in the world.

Similarly, Jack Tice, a senior, has found a renewed sense of peace amongst the chaos within resolutions, something he used to never believe in.

"If you asked me a couple years ago I would say New Year's resolutions were mainly just functions to ease our conscience and that people would create goals far out of their reach," Tice said. "Now I would say resolutions are a little different. I think a main focus for many has become how we can improve our lives based on who and what we already have in our immediate surroundings." With this new perspective in mind, he found setting intentions for 2021 was necessary.

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“The intentions I set for 2021 were to be more forgiving to myself and the people around me,” Tice said. “2020 really taught me more than ever that our immediate experiences are not at all identical.”

For Tice, the pandemic made him that much more appreciative for friendship and fostering deeper connections with others. COVID-19 narrowed his circle of friends, making him grateful to have people who care about him and subsequently are hard on him. He is thankful for his friends because they constantly make sure he is not slacking on what he set out to do.

While Tice valued setting resolutions for the New Year, Belle Suttora, sophomore, on the other hand, has put less pressure on herself for 2021.

“I do believe in New Year’s resolutions and I do think that they work for some people,” Suttora said. “That being said, within the last few years I have given up on setting specific goals. Or rather, I will set goals and view them as guidelines rather than a strict path I must follow.” In 2021, Suttora wants to form a better relationship with herself, which she has found to be going well thus far,

especially because she has not been putting excessive pressure on the goal.

“I think my goal is coming along relatively well in 2021. That being said, I think that part of my success is due to the looseness of my goal,” Suttora said. “I did not set a specific daily, weekly, or monthly goal because I have seen many times in the past that by February I have already failed at achieving the strict New Years Resolutions I have set.” In many ways, the pandemic shaped Suttora’s 2021 goals because isolation brought out a lot of emotions within her life. She said the pandemic negatively impacted her mental health. Despite this, isolation showed her how crucial it was to work with her inner critic and

enjoy the spirit of the celebration. This past New Year’s, he dedicated specific time to embracing the holiday.

“I set a few intentions for myself. I actually spent two hours just journaling about the past year and the year that’s coming,” Eicholzer said. “My hope coming into 2021 was to be more flexible, more active, and kinder to myself, and I think I’ve done a good job thus far.”

However, he realizes goals can sometimes be daunting, which many would agree with.

“Like any other goal, New Year’s resolutions should be met with patience, and I allow myself to take off days when I need them,” Eicholzer said. “I used to be very hard on myself when

When it comes to the pandemic shaping his resolutions, he found he shifted them according to what was going on in the world. “I tried making my goals less about the things I can do and the places I can see, and more about my mental health and personal habits,” Eicholzer said. “This pandemic has given me a lot of alone time, and I think I’m overall more aware of the things I want to work on within myself.”

Whether it be focusing on mental health issues or simply enjoying the outdoors more, New Year’s resolutions and the holiday, in general, celebrates self-improvement. In a year where uncertainty and looking inwards could be extremely difficult, it’s



Daisy Martinez/The USD Vista

quiet that voice in her head.

Lastly, Lachlan Eicholzer, a junior, found that setting resolutions was a time to reset and

it came to meeting certain goals and expectations, and that attitude truly got me nowhere. That’s where being kinder to myself comes in.”

important to remember that sometimes setting goals can be a lot, and that’s fine. Sometimes living in the present and simply surviving is enough, too.

The power of words in modern-day politics

Donald J. Trump's continuous lies and provoking rhetoric espoused on his Twitter account, rather than his actions, were central to his second impeachment trial

BRITTANY LANG
FEATURE EDITOR

In an unprecedented turn of events, the world watched in horror as footage of rioters storming the Capitol on Jan. 6 flooded television screens and news outlets around the globe. The loathsome behavior exhibited by these individuals, whose purpose was to “take back” the election they believed was stolen, was the culmination of two months of encouragement by former President Trump himself.

Trump's continuous calls to action to his unwavering supporters through tweets and public statements inciting violence and promoting misinformation after the election did not come as much of a surprise. Trump and his cohorts had been pushing the narrative that due to the high percentage of mail-in voting, the 2020 presidential election would be racked with fraud — evidently only if he lost the election to Joe Biden. However, many did

not foresee the extremities Trump's disciples would take after being fueled by his words.

Trump's lawyers took to the Senate floor on the morning of Feb. 12 to strenuously deny that he played any role in inciting the chaos that played out at the Capitol, and that this type of rhetoric is not atypical in the political world. They claimed that he had the right to publicly dispute the election results, which they equated to the actions of Democrats in 2016. His lawyers insisted that in no way did his words validate the argument that Trump is responsible for the barbaric insurrection.

“This is ordinarily political rhetoric that is virtually indistinguishable from the language that has been used by people across the political spectrum for hundreds of years,” Trump's lawyer Michael van der Veen said. “Countless politicians have spoken of fighting for our principles.”

Trump's lawyers acknowledged the horrors

of the riots at the Capitol, but argued that he cannot be regarded as the main instigator. This argument likely resonated with Republican senators who wanted to condemn the violence without convicting the president, as they had their own political careers in mind. His lawyers did not stick to a narrow constitutional argument as they also focused on accusing the Democrats of using the impeachment process for partisan gain.

There are two fallacies that need to be corrected regarding Trump's lawyers' insistence that his questioning of the election's validity was not uncommon and that he had every right to pose such concerns.

First, Trump's statements made on Twitter were not just questions — there were assertions. He repeatedly used the phrases, “we won the election,” “we won it by a landslide,” and that the election was “rigged” and “stolen.” These statements were presented by him

as irrefutable facts that left no room for doubt, despite such accusations being disproved time and again by state courts and election officials. His loyal supporters who were left distraught when Biden was announced as president-elect were encouraged to take whatever actions necessary in order to take back the election.

During the second day of the impeachment trial on Feb. 11, the prosecutors used videos of the rioters giving their statements from that fateful day in order to cast Trump as not a bystander but the “inciter in chief.” One Capitol invader said, “we were invited here.” “Trump sent us,” another said. “He will be happy. We're fighting for Trump.”

Trump told his supporters to “fight” and that they “will not take their country back with weakness.” With these provoking words from Trump, he validated the extreme actions that the mob felt they had to take — smashing windows,

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assaulting police officers, and destroying government property. Essentially with his encouragement through these vague directives, Trump's far-right supporters who had it in them to take such violent measures were given the green light.

Second, no other modern president has refused to concede and commit to a peaceful transfer of power once all the votes have been counted and legal challenges resolved, despite Trump's lawyers alluding to the idea that his actions were conventional.

A peaceful transfer of power has been a norm since 1800 when the country's second president John Adams became the first president to lose his reelection bid to Thomas Jefferson. Despite some concessions being more gracious than others, throughout American history it has been considered an essential custom since its inception — that is, until the 2020 election.

On Saturday Feb. 13, the Senate voted 57 to 43 to acquit Trump of inciting an insurrection — two-thirds, or 67 votes were needed. The acquittal of Trump was

an unsurprising outcome of the impeachment trial, albeit frustrating.

The impeachment trial went beyond the question of whether or not Trump's speech was responsible for the violent mobs that stormed the Capitol. It was a question of whether the U.S. will remain a democracy or take another step towards authoritarianism. The acquittal of Trump signifies that by not convicting and barring him from holding public office in the future, the Senate has defended lies, divisiveness, and violence. Therefore, it appears as though we have taken that

next step.

The events that transpired on Jan. 6 at the Capitol, which are arguably best understood as a coup attempt, would not have happened to the degree that they did without Trump's adamant refusal to accept the election results and his continuous spread of misinformation.

It is important that as students of USD, we understand the future trajectory of American politics. Words that today are so easily shared and have no limit on the amount of people they can reach, can either strengthen or hurt our democratic system. When those in power use words to spread hatred and lies, they make individuals who harbor resentment and hostility for other individuals or groups feel seen and heard — this opens up a place in society for this kind of hate to manifest.

We have witnessed the humiliation of a nation once considered the world's greatest democracy. Words hold a lot more power than we think, and there is a fine line between free speech and speech that has a direct link to violence. It is up to the future generations to know how to recognize each.



The Capitol riots will define Trump's legacy and the divisions he stoked throughout his presidency.

Photo courtesy of Shealah Craighead/Official White House Photo/flickr

Bad influence

With social media influencers growing in popularity and power, recognizing their flaws is more important than ever

HALLIE WILTSHIRE
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

When the news first began reporting on COVID-19, no one could have predicted that almost a year later, the pandemic not only continues to persist but continues to worsen. San Diego remains in the purple tier with the virus still widespread. Cases continue to rise worldwide, with the U.S. at the top with almost 28 million cases and well over 400,000 deaths.

Despite this, some people are acting as if the pandemic is over. Social media influencers in particular continue to travel, often frequently, and shirk COVID-19 guidelines.

Despite this, some people are acting as if the pandemic is over. Social media influencers in particular continue to travel, often frequently, and shirk COVID-19 guidelines. This despicable behavior puts communities at unnecessary risk for contracting the virus, demonstrating the power imbalance between influencers and regular people.

Influencers have taken over the internet. The lavish lifestyle and

sense of relatability draws viewers in. Social media influencers are arguably more effective at pushing products than celebrities, as their lives are viewed as more attainable than those of celebrities. Influencers

A 2019 study found that children's top career aspiration in the U.S. and U.K. was to become a professional YouTuber or vlogger, outranking both professional athlete and astronaut.

sell more than just beauty products and clothes; they sell their lifestyle, beliefs, and values. Particularly for younger audiences,

an influencer's actions can shape their own. Although influencers may technically just be people, their platform and impact

Traveling, especially internationally, during a pandemic is completely unacceptable, particularly for a population of individuals who have the money and ability to work from home safely.

come with a great deal of responsibility.

A 2019 study found that children's top career aspiration in the U.S. and U.K. was to become a professional YouTuber or vlogger, outranking both professional athlete and

astronaut. For younger generations, being an influencer is just as respectable a job as those we traditionally view as heroes.

This level of power can set us on a dangerous

path. If influencers behave poorly and engage in risky behavior while presenting it as fun and cool, their audiences are likely to

mimic that behavior. During a global pandemic, such risky behavior is particularly dangerous, as actual lives are at stake.

Traveling, especially internationally, during a pandemic is completely unacceptable, particularly for a population of individuals who have the money and ability to work from home safely. Video, photo, and podcast

creation and editing can be done from home. There is no excuse for traveling. All of it is superfluous and puts unnecessary strain on an already burdened healthcare system.

One of the most

popular destinations for American influencers is Mexico. As beauty influencers prance across the beach in their bikinis, having native workers bring them cocktails, about 1,000 Mexican citizens die daily from COVID-19. According to Johns Hopkins's mortality analyses, Mexico currently has the worst observed case-fatality

ratio in the world at 8.6%. By comparison, the U.S. has an observed case-fatality ratio of 1.7% and most countries remain under 3%. As influencers fret over the prospect of spending their birthdays

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From Page 15 alone in their houses and turn to international travel as a remedy, people are dying.

It is true that influencers must continue a steady stream of content in order to maintain their livelihood, but safe content sans travel is possible. Hanging out with large groups of people under the guise of “collaboration” is also

inappropriate. Influencers can adapt just like the rest of us who have found new virtual ways to meet with others. The pandemic will not end until everyone does their part, and influencers are currently failing to do theirs.

We must stop seeing influencers as superhuman. Viewers put too much power into their hands. They see themselves as superior to

us, and it’s this mentality that allows them to justify risky behavior and think that the rules do not apply to them. Influencers are just people who have flaws and their desires do not trump those of “regular” people. If an influencer is acting poorly and putting lives at risk, stop supporting them. They thrive off of attention and will do anything to get it, regardless

of the cost. Unfollow and unsubscribe. Stop giving them an excuse to disregard human life.

The views expressed in the editorial and op-ed sections are not necessarily those of The USD Vista staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.



Mexico, the preferred travel destination for many influencers during this pandemic, is suffering the consequences from their inconsiderate actions.

Photo courtesy of flickr/Chris Murphy

Mixed fortunes for USD in women's soccer, volleyball openers

Women's soccer falls 4-1 to Pepperdine while volleyball sweeps St. Mary's and Portland

ERIC BOOSE
SPORTS EDITOR

Rough first half dooms San Diego in loss to Waves

The visiting Pepperdine Waves scored three goals in eleven minutes, and added a fourth right before the final whistle as they cruised past USD, 4-1, in the Toreros' women's soccer season opener on Friday.

The visitors opened the scoring in the 20th minute with an opportunity created from a corner kick, then added goals number two and three in the 30th and 31st minutes. Pepperdine's junior defender Trinity Watson, who scored the first goal, assisted the second, lofting a free kick into the penalty area, which fellow defender, senior Emily Sample, got her head to, arcing the ball over the outstretched arm of the Toreros' sophomore goalkeeper Ellyn Casto. Less than a minute later, the Waves added a third. A San Diego defender played a sloppy pass infield from the wing, which midfielder Tori Waldeck intercepted. A few touches

later, she was through on goal, and while Casto did well to save Waldeck's shot, the Pepperdine first-year gathered the rebound and put the ball past the sprawling USD keeper.

Sophomore Eden Quiroz, who was named to the All-WCC Freshman Team last season, called Friday's game "not us."

"I don't think we played the best soccer at all," Quiroz said. "There were a lot of times during the game where it felt like some people were on the right page and others weren't. There was a miscommunication throughout the team."

The Waves out-shot the Toreros 15-0 in the first half, and led 3-0 after the first 45 minutes. While USD's struggles to create chances didn't help their defense, Quiroz was not too worried for the future.

"Especially because we were playing defense a lot of the time, we need the ball to stay up there so we're not just constantly running," Quiroz said. "We need to put people under pressure and be able to stay calm and collected on the ball and make them feel pressure instead of us."

The trend continued into the second half, as it took San Diego until the 64th minute to manage their first shot of the match. They would finish with only three (to Pepperdine's 23), with only one of them on target. That came in the 72nd minute, when USD was awarded a penalty kick, which first-year forward Lexi Kaz buried to deny Pepperdine the shutout.

The visitors would have the last laugh, however, as in the 89th minute, Waves midfielder Leyla McFarland latched on to a long ball over the top, dribbled into the 18-yard box, beat her defender, and tucked the ball past Casto to restore her team's three-goal advantage.

In their postgame report, Pepperdine athletics quoted Waves head coach Tim Ward as saying, "We probably should have had more than four but we'll take it." The reason they only had four, USD keeper Ellyn Casto, was one of the game's bright spots for the Toreros. In her first start for San Diego, the sophomore finished a very busy afternoon with eight

saves, earning praise from her teammate, Quiroz.

"She really stood out to me because she saved us a lot," Quiroz, who was playing center back, said. "She came up with some really incredible saves."

Despite the result, head coach Lou Lieberman was pleased with her team's effort in the second half.

"I like how our team fought back and tried to get the game back in the second half, and I thought that they made some improvements and some adjustments that worked well, so I'm proud of them," Lieberman said. "We have a strong group of girls. Mentally, physically, we have a strong group ... And I'm truly excited about their growth that is going to happen this spring. When you get three goals scored on you, it's disappointing, no doubt, but I'm so optimistic about the game changing during a game."

Growth for the future was a theme in Lieberman's post-match comments; she emphasized that the team was only going to improve throughout the season.

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"It's a young team ... so just them having the experience is going to help them be more confident, get better at this level that they've never played in," Lieberman said. "With time on the field, playing games, it's only going to get better and better. For me, it's exciting to see the growth that's going to happen in these next eight weeks."

Even though it was against a West Coast Conference opponent, Friday's game was part of USD's non-conference schedule, meaning it will not affect conference standings. The Toreros continued their non-conference schedule on Tuesday, falling 3-0 to No. 4 UCLA in Los Angeles. They open WCC play on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m., hosting 10th-ranked BYU. San Diego will get another crack at Pepperdine when the two teams meet in Malibu on April 3.

No. 18 Toreros overpower Gaels and Pilots

USD Volleyball had to wait an extra two weeks, but finally got their season off to a flying start, sweeping a pair of two-match series against St. Mary's and Portland, only losing one set across the four matches last week.

The Toreros roared out of the gates in their

season opener against St. Mary's on Feb. 7, racking up three aces in the first four serves, winning the first set 25-14 en route to a 3-0 sweep of the Gaels. St. Mary's got off to a strong start in the second set, building an 8-3 lead early, but junior Laura Madill and senior Roxie Wiblin powered an 8-0 scoring run to give San Diego the lead, which they never gave back, winning the set 25-22. The third set was a somewhat similar story. Wiblin, this time with help from redshirt sophomore Lauren Turner, led a 7-0 scoring run to give the hosts a lead they never relinquished, finishing off the sweep with a 25-16 win.

The Toreros and Gaels were back inside the Jenny Craig Pavilion the very next day, Feb. 8, for their second meeting, which turned out to be a far closer match than the one only a day earlier. Despite sweeping the visitors from Moraga, USD won all three sets by four points or less — 25-23, 25-21, and 25-22, respectively. The first set was tied at 23 before a pair of kills from Wiblin gave her team a 1-0 advantage. And while the Toreros took the lead early in the second set, St. Mary's never went away, bringing the score to 23-21 before San Diego scored the final two points to go 2-0 up in the match.

The final set was just as closely contested as the ones before it. USD led by no more than five, and the teams were within three points of each other for almost the entire set.

While Wiblin led the Toreros with 31 kills across the two matches, Madill was setting everything up. She finished with 35 assists in the first match and 36 in the second, out-assisting the entire St. Mary's team, 71-53 in total.

Two days later, Wiblin and Madill both had career nights in the first of two matches against the Portland Pilots. Wiblin recorded 20 kills (matching her career high), added three aces to bring her points total to a career-best 23, and made 14 digs to make it a double-double. Madill set up everything for the Toreros offensively, recording an astonishing career-high 49 assists in San Diego's 3-1 win.

USD won all three of their sets by double digits, only dropping the fiercely contested second set, 30-28.

And they could have won that set. The Toreros were leading 24-21, needing only a point to win, but a service error by Madill allowed the Pilots back into it. Portland went on a run, eventually taking the lead, 25-24, forcing a win-by-two situation. Each team had

opportunities to get the two-point margin they needed to claim the set, but neither could finish them. With the set tied at 28, the visitors finally found back-to-back kills, but it did little more than prevent the Toreros sweeping the match, as San Diego won sets three and four to finish the match.

Portland would get no such consolation prize the next day. Sophomore Grace Frohling led the scoring with 13 kills and four aces as the Toreros swept the Pilots. Portland only managed nine points in the first set, and only 10 in the third, the closest set being the second, which USD won 25-17.

Already, the Toreros have earned the ranking of 18th overall in the nation, and their 4-0 start to the season put them level with BYU and Pepperdine for first place in the West Coast Conference.

San Diego kept their winning streak rolling to start this week, defeating Santa Clara 3-1 on Tuesday, the first of two back-to-back meetings between the two teams. The Toreros will play the Broncos again on Wednesday at 2 p.m. before back-to-back meetings with Gonzaga in Spokane on Feb. 19 and 20. Both of those games start at noon.

Toreros split opening weekend

USD women's tennis goes 1-1 after first weekend of competition

MARIA WATTERS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The University of San Diego's women's tennis team kicked off their 2021 season by sweeping the Cal State Fullerton Titans before getting swept by the UCLA Bruins on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

USD delivered a dominating performance against the Titans for their home opener on Friday. After three sets of doubles and six singles matches, the Toreros swept the Titans, snagging an impressive 7-0 victory. UCLA proved to be a much tougher opponent for the Toreros, however, as the No. 3 ranked Bruins defeated USD 0-7. After their first weekend of competition, the Toreros will have to settle for a 1-1 record to begin their season.

Going into Friday's contest against the Titans, it had been nearly a year since the women's tennis team competed on their home courts. But despite the lengthy offseason and the hardships that accompanied training during a global pandemic, the Toreros showed promise for a highly successful 2021 season.

Head coach Sherri

Stephens felt that her team would have to play catch up against two teams that had already gotten some matches under their belt.

"Both of the teams that we played had already played several matches," Stephens said. "We haven't really been out on the court in full, healthy condition ... so we were behind as far as conditioning a little bit, and a little bit of toughness."

During their absence from the court, USD acquired their highest ranked recruiting class in the program's history, coming in at No. 14 nationally. The addition of first years Elisabeth Andryukhova, Abigail Desiatnikov, and Jordyn McBride suggest a bright future for the University of San Diego's women's tennis program. The Toreros also picked up a talented sophomore from Zutendaal, Belgium, Victoria Kalaitzis.

The Toreros also returned several of their key players from last season including captain and redshirt fourth year Kati Kukaras, and two players who received preseason ranking from the International Tennis Association — redshirt first year Elizabeth

Goldsmith, ranked no. 124, and redshirt sophomore Solymer Colling, ranked no. 61. Along with being named the first All-American for the Toreros since 2011 her freshman year, Colling was named to the All-West Coast Conference preseason team for 2021.

Colling and Goldsmith led the doubles lineup for the Toreros against the Titans, as they faced off against senior Eira Tobrand and sophomore Misaki Kobayashi. Kukaras and redshirt junior Maria Tyrina took on sophomore Camila Garcia and first year Natalie Duffy on court two, followed by USD's Andryukhova and redshirt first year Jessi Muljat against Fullerton's senior Taylor Valenzuela and junior YuSeung Suh.

In the best-of-three round of doubles matches, the winner would secure the first overall point for their team. Colling and Goldsmith finished first, with a dominating 6-1 victory, followed closely by Kukaras and Tyrina who clinched the doubles point, defeating their opponents 6-2.

Ahead 1-0 in the overall score, the Toreros entered the singles round with all

the momentum over the Titans. The All-American Colling took on Kobayashi on the top court, followed by Goldsmith against Tobrand on court two. McBride faced Suh on court three, with Kukaras facing Duffy on court four. Rounding out the lineups for both teams were Kalaitzis against Fullerton's first year Juliette Daries, followed by Muljat versus Garcia on court six.

The Titans proved to be no match for the Toreros as USD refused to surrender a single set in all six matches. Colling made quick work of Kobayashi, securing USD's second point with her 6-0, 6-2 victory. Goldsmith won the third point for the Toreros after defeating Tobrand 6-3, 6-2. McBride finished soon after, taking down Suh 6-2, 6-2, clinching the match for the Toreros. After the remaining three matches concluded, the USD women's tennis team emerged victorious with an impressive 7-0 victory. Stephens was happy with her team's performance, but still saw room for improvement.

"They were very, very nervous because they

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Friday's game against Fullerton came 342 days after USD last took the court.

Photo courtesy of Tom Christensen/USD Athletics

From Page 19 hadn't played in a year," Stephens said. "But I felt like we handled the pressure pretty well, and did what we had been training to do, and I thought we beat them very soundly."

But USD had little time to celebrate their victory as they were set to take on a significantly tougher opponent in No. 3 UCLA the next day.

After their decisive victory against the Titans, Colling felt her team was confident going into their match against the Bruins.

"We were pretty confident," Colling said. "We were all really excited to play Cal State Fullerton

because we wanted a warm up match, almost, before UCLA, and I think we were all just excited for the opportunity to play them."

USD went with a similar doubles roster for their second match of the weekend, with McBride and Desiatnikov substituted in for Andryukhova and Muljat. They would be facing off against UCLA's senior Abi Altick and junior Taylor Johnson on court three. Colling and Goldsmith took on sophomore Abbey Forbes and graduate student Jada Hart on court one, followed by Kukaras and Tyrina against seniors Annette Goulak and

Vivian Wolff.

The Bruins dominated the doubles round. Goulak and Wolff snatched the first win over Kukaras and Tyrina 6-3. Altick and Johnson's subsequent victory over Desiatnikov and McBride clinched the doubles point for UCLA. Colling and Goldsmith finished shortly after, losing to Forbes and Hart 6-4.

Down 0-1 entering the singles round, the Toreros would have to win on four courts to defeat the Bruins. But this would be no easy task as UCLA's singles lineup was formidable, starting with No. 7 ranked Forbes to take on Colling on court one. On court two, Goldsmith was set to face Wolff, followed by McBride against Altick. Desiatnikov, who was not a part of the singles lineup against Fullerton, took on Goulak on court four with Kukaras versus Vagramov on court five. Finishing off the matchups was Kalaitzis against Johnson on court six.

The Toreros got a taste of their own medicine as they were only able to win a single set across all six courts. Goldsmith surrendered the second point to Wolff on court 2, 6-3, 6-3. Colling was unable to overcome the power of Forbes who secured the third point for the Bruins with her 6-4, 6-3 victory. The final nail

in the Toreros' coffin came from court three when Altick defeated McBride 6-3, 6-3.

At the end of the day, the Bruins put on an impressive performance, defeating USD 7-0.

Despite the loss, Stephens had a positive outlook on her team's performance.

"I have a team of fighters," Stephens said. "I have a team of workhorses that are going to go out and fight for every point. We needed to be a little bit more confident and step up a bit more into the court. They were taking advantage of us too much. But the team saw it. We all saw it. So we are just going to go out and work hard and be ready to do that to someone else."

The USD women's tennis team emerged from their first weekend of competition 1-1. With both an impressive win and tough loss, the future of this generation of the Toreros is still uncertain, however, they will have a chance to improve their record in a week when they face a familiar opponent in the USC Trojans on Saturday Feb. 20. Their first match away will be a good test for the USD women, but no matter the result, Torero tennis fans can be confident that their women's team is ready to compete and hungry for victory.